



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE**

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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

August 10, 2011

The Honorable Christine Kehoe
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 1297** - As amended July 11, 2011 - **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Kehoe:

The County of San Bernardino supports of your bill, AB 1297, which is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 15, 2011. This bill will ensure timely federal Medicaid reimbursement for Specialty Medi-Cal Mental Health Managed Care services for California's Medi-Cal beneficiaries living with serious mental illness.

AB 1297 will bring the state's requirements for the Specialty Medi-Cal Mental Health Managed Care program into alignment with federal requirements in order to maximize federal reimbursement. During these difficult economic times, it is vital that California's public mental health system avail itself of all available federal resources.

AB 1297 requires federal reimbursement amounts to be consistent with federal Medicaid requirements. Currently, California uses administratively-established Statewide Maximum Allowances (SMAs), which have been frozen since Fiscal Year 2006-07. By utilizing federal Medicaid Upper Payment Limits instead of SMAs, the County will be able to fully recover federal reimbursement for the costs we incur in serving eligible populations.

Additionally, AB 1297 allows the County, after certification of expenditures, to be reimbursed for administrative costs in a manner consistent with federal Medicaid requirements.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports AB 1297 and respectfully requests your "yes" vote. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, the County's Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821. The County thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Wesley Chesbro

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.